

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, PGOV, WB, GW
SUBJECT: MOMMSEN REPORTEDLY TO HEAD BERLIN FURTHERANCE GROUP
SUPPORTED BY FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG

SUMMARY: SPD GRABS FOR LEAD IN BERLIN PROMOTION. END SUMMARY.

1. BERLIN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED FEB 7 RELEASE INDICATING
THAT FORMER KRUPP BOARD CHAIRMAN ERNST WOLF MOMMSEN IS
PREPARED TO TAKE OVE A BERLIN DICUSSION CIRCLE ON
"ECONOMICS AND POLTIICS" SUPPORTED BY THE FRIEDRICH-EBERT-
STIFTUNG. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW GROUP IS SCHEDULED
FOR MARCH. MOMMSEN WAS RECRUITED BY BERLIN'S SENATOR FOR
FINANCE REIBSCHLAEGER, WHO CARIED OUT A SUGGESTION OF
CHANCELOR SCHMIDT.

2. RECENTLY RETIRED BERLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT WALTER COBLE
R
TELLS US THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS A DU FRIEND OF MOMMSEN FOR 40
YEARS, HE DOES NOT THINK THE APPOINTMEN IS A GOOD ONE.
COBLER SAYS HE AHS ADMIRED MOMMSEN AS A PERSON SINCE THE
LATTER, A GRANDSON OF GERMAN HISTORIAN THEODOR MOMMSEN,
HELPED COBLER AVOID NAZI PUNITIVE ACTION IN CLOSING
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STAGES WORLD WAR II DUE TO DISPUTE OVER USE OF FOREIGN (SLAVE)
LABOR. NEVERTHELESS MOMMSEN'S " EXCELLENT CONNECTIONS"
ARE UNFORTUNATELY ALL WITH THE WRONG PEOPLE. MOMMSEN'S
POLICY PREDILECTIONS ARE IN COBLER'S VIEW NOT SUCH AS TO
INSPIRE THE SUPPORT OF GERMAN BUSINESS INTERSTS CONSID-
ERING INVESTMENT IN BERLIN.

3. MISSION COMMENT. FRIEDRICH-EBRT-STIFTUNG IS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE SPD. PRESENT MOVE APPEARS TO BE SPD EFFORT TO CIRCUMVENT FDP BERLIN COALITION PARTNER'S PREVIOUS OPPOSITION TO NAMING MOMSEN TO AN ADVISORY ROLE IN BERLIN. SPD ALSO SEEKING TO TAKE LEAD FROM FDP MAYOR AND SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS LUEDER AND BERLIN CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (IHK) IN PUSHING BERLIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMTN. FIRST EFFORT A YEAR AGO TO GET MOMMSEN A BERLIN PROMOTION ASSIGNMENT FAILED BECAUSE OF LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN SPD AND RIVAL FDP POLITICAL FIGURES, FORMER MAYOR OXFORD AND LUEDER. APPOINTMENT ALSO ASSURES FEDERAL CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT EXCELLENT LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO MOMMSEN (A PERSONAL FRIEND OF SCHMIDT) GROUP AND WHATEVER PROGRAM IT DEVELOPS.

4. MOMMSEN APPOINTMENT ALSO APPEARS TO BE SPD EFFORT TO TAKE STEAM OUT OF DRIVE LED BY IHK PRESIDENT HORST ELFE TO CREATE A NEW HIGH-LEVEL BERLIN-FRG GROUP TO PROMOTE BERLIN DEVELOPMENT AS AN ALL-GERMAN NATIONAL OBLIGATION. THE IHK HAD HOPED FOR GROUP OF DIFFERENT COMPLEXION. ALTHOUGH IHK HAS NOT YET TAKEN AN OFFICIAL POSITION IT IS UNLIKELY TO SEE MOMMSEN APPOINTMENT AS FULLY MEETING ITS REQUIREMENTS. END COMMENT.
GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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